
Showers push back opening of bypass

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Friday night's rainfall delayed the much-anticipated opening of a new bypass at the northbound Interstate 5/805 merge, and officials say it's unlikely to be ready for tomorrow evening's commute.

A storm that brought patchy rain around the county and light snow to the mountains was expected to continue last night. It was the first snowfall of the season.

The National Weather Service forecast brief showers last night and this morning and snow in the mountains below 3,000 feet. Sprurts of snow and fog could make travel in the mountains difficult, the weather service said. In the lowlands, there was a possibility of hail.

The storm is expected to move east tomorrow.

Contractors working on the merge need about 12 hours to restripe existing lanes on I-5 and I-805 and otherwise reconfigure the heavily traveled junction, said Edward Cartagena, a spokesman for the California Department of Transportation.

An on-site news conference and electronic message signs Friday had trumpeted yesterday's expected opening of the new northbound connectors to state Route 56 and Carmel Mountain Road. With more rain forecast for today, however, Cartagena said contractors will wait for a break in the weather to complete the work.

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